



WINTER 2004

IN THE NEWS

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF SALISBURY ♦ NORTH CAROLINA GIS COMMUNITY

VOL 3 NO 1

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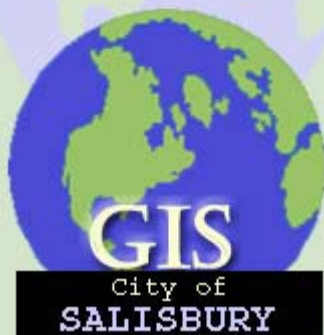
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GIS DIVISION NEWS

NCURISA, NCCGIA, and City of Salisbury Host NCOneMap Workshop

By Kathryn Clifton
City of Salisbury GIS Coordinator

The GIS Division worked cooperatively with the North Carolina Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (NCURISA) and the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (NCCGIA) to host a one day workshop titled "Connecting to NC OneMap". This technical workshop was designed to give participants an overview of what NC OneMap is, what the Open GIS Consortium (OGC) WMS specification is, and a hands-on lesson on how to implement a basic WMS map service using ESRI's ArcIMS 4.01 so that workshop participants may serve their GIS data layers to the NC OneMap demonstration viewer (<http://www.nconemap.com>).

Julia Harrell of NCCGIA served as the primary instructor. Introductory presentations about the concept of NC OneMap and its evolution were given by Zsolt Nagy of NCCGIA and Chris Kanaan of USGS.

See **NC OneMap Workshop**, Page 4

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Urban Art & History Trail
Project Underway

By Janet Gapen
City of Salisbury Planner II

Efforts are underway to develop an art and history trail in downtown Salisbury, loosely modeled on the Asheville Urban Trail and similar interpretive history trails found in other cities. Partly inspired by a goal of the Downtown Master Plan to make "public history" more accessible to visitors and locals alike, the trail will be a venue for incorporating commissioned works of art into downtown public spaces while bringing to life Salisbury's rich history in a uniquely tangible way.

Development of a local trail has been

See **Art & History Trail**, Page 2

MORE GIS DIVISION NEWS

GIS Strategic Plan a Priority

Members of the City of Salisbury GIS Users Group will soon be working to update the existing GIS Master Plan developed in fiscal year 2001-2002.

Each department in the City has been asked to provide input into the development of this new strategic plan. Input from external entities and organizations is welcomed as well. The GIS Strategic Plan shall establish a shared vision for GIS within the City of Salisbury, and maintain a commitment to common, prioritized goals.

For more information about the GIS Strategic Plan, contact Kathryn Clifton at 704-638-5246 or via e-mail at katclif@salisburync.gov. ♦

... Art & History Trail (from page 1)

spearheaded by the Community Appearance Commission's Art in Public Places Committee, with support from a diverse group of downtown stakeholders, including Downtown Salisbury, Inc., the Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Historic Salisbury Foundation, Rowan Museum and others.

Along with the development of project guidelines, one of the committee's first tasks was to define the scope of the trail and to identify potential trail sites. Considering that the study area for the Salisbury Downtown Master Plan was developed based on a significant amount of public input, the committee elected to adopt that study area in order to remain consistent with previous downtown planning efforts. After the trail area was defined, a history sub-committee went to work outlining a list of people, places, stories and events of significant historical or cultural importance in the City's development. The list is tentative, designed to assist the committee in determining potential routes and subject to change as more sites are identified. The sites were further grouped into five historical eras: Early Salisbury, Civil War and Reconstruction, Railroad and Industrial Expansion, Black History and the Twentieth Century. The trail area and potential sites are shown here.

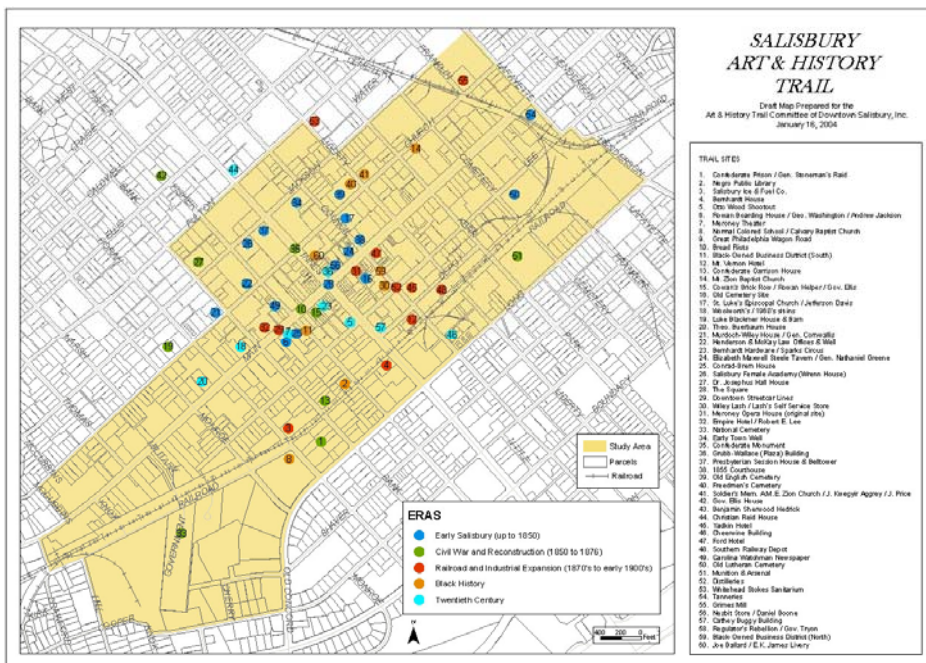
Maps in the vein of the draft shown here will be used by the committee when considering locations for incorporating public art and later as a graphic tool for communicating the project to the broader public. This map includes parcel data as a base layer and a trail boundary layer. The sites were grouped according to era based on a field added to the layer's attribute table.

Work also continues on developing policies and guidelines for the implementation of the urban trail in downtown Salisbury. The guidelines set forth review procedures and criteria for project selection, with highest priority going to projects demonstrating strong community/private partnerships and projects having the greatest positive impact on the surrounding area. The program will also encourage community groups and artists to initiate projects and may offer funding assistance for such efforts.

Visit the GIS website to download this map from the Virtual Map Counter. Contact Janet Gapen for more information about the Salisbury Art & History Trail. EMAIL jgapen@salisburync.gov ♦



The Empire Hotel (ca. 1855) on S. Main St. was a favorite destination for visitors to Salisbury through much of its history.



This draft Art & History Trail map illustrates sixty sites of interest. This map is available for download at http://gis.salisburync.gov/data_catalog/virtual_map_counter.asp.

USER INSIGHT

Comments & Suggestions Welcome

Your comments and suggestions for *GIS In the News* would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you have a question about GIS, its uses, software, etc. please submit them as well. Just send an e-mail to Kathryn Clifton at katclif@salisburync.gov with the subject "GIS In the News". ♦

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

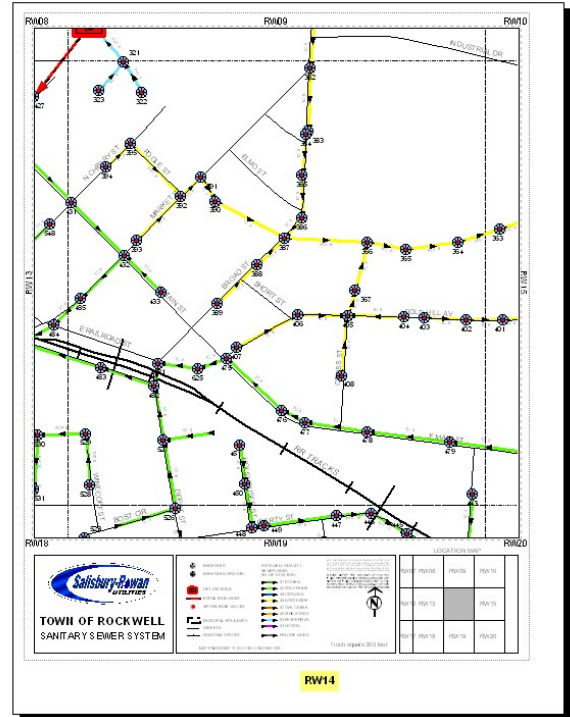
Data Collection Update for Salisbury-Rowan Utilities

By Patrick Kennerly
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities GIS Coordinator

The Salisbury Rowan Utilities (SRU) GIS Unit continues to make steady progress in mapping the wastewater collection system. At this time, the Rockwell and Granite Quarry systems have been completed, with the exception of a few missing pieces that will soon be located. Next up will be the Grant Creek interceptor that flows from Landis and China Grove into Salisbury. The GIS Unit will also be mapping the existing infrastructure in the recently identified annexation study area between US 29 and Grant Creek. Once these items are completed, the next three months or so will be spent working on the Spencer collection system.

With the Rockwell and Granite Quarry systems completed, we are now working with Mapbook Generator, a feature within ArcGIS. This software will allow staff to easily create custom maps that will cut large wall maps into overlapping tiles that will print letter sized pages. These mapbooks will be distributed to all of the work crews in the field, so that they will finally have accurate and comprehensive maps of the Salisbury-Rowan Utility system.

If you would like to review the data, it is available on the GIS server. Connections to this server should be mapped as the V:/ drive to a shared folder “//mark/gis_data”. Utilities information is available in the arcview/utilities folder.



This sample MapBook page illustrates a portion of the Town of Rockwell Sanitary Sewer System.



Picture #1



Picture #2

Data Collection Report

Since the creation of the SRU GIS Unit in September, efficiency of data collection has steadily increased. The GeoXT data collection units that were funded through the Homeland Security Grant have arrived, and are currently being tested for field data collection. These handheld units will soon replace the bulky GPS equipment that is currently in use, and should allow staff to be even more productive in workflow.

With the current equipment, staff are locating, inspecting, and mapping about 250 manholes per month in the field. Connecting sewer lines are added in the office, along with their attributes, including size, material, and age. Despite the overwhelming amount of work to be done, staff expect to complete mapping of the entire wastewater collection system by the end of 2005.

Contact Patrick Kennerly for more information about the Salisbury-Rowan Utilities GIS Unit and their data collection efforts.

EMAIL pkenn@salisburyrowan.gov ♦

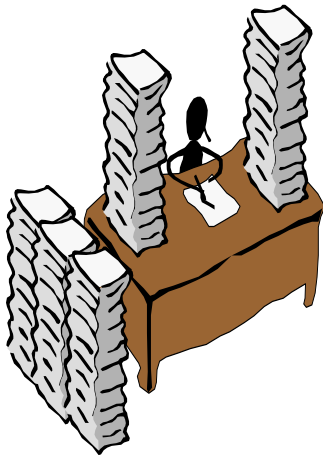
Picture #1: GIS Mapping Technician Fred Mowery uses a Leica Disto to measure the invert depth of a manhole and estimate the pipe size of laterals.

Picture #2: GIS Mapping Technician Trey Cleaton uses a Trimble TSC1 datalogger to collect manhole locations and attributes.

USER INSIGHT

Dear GUS,

Dear GUS (GIS User Specialist) is a column that will address common questions that GIS users may encounter.



Dear GUS,

I've heard a number of people talking about using raster image catalogs in ArcGIS and how nice they are, but I'm confused about what benefit they might be to me.

Signed, Catalog Conundrum

Dear Catalog Conundrum,

If you use digital aerial photography, then a raster catalog can be a great timesaver. Raster catalogs are used to view tiled raster imagery as a seamless data layer without having to merge or mosaic them into one large file.

Raster catalogs are actually just a table that contains the path to the raster image, and the bounding coordinates of the image. In ArcCatalog, raster catalogs appear as an ordinary table. However, when you add this table into ArcMap, the images included in the raster catalog are drawn in order from the first to the last record in the table.

If there are a large number of images in your raster catalog, then a wireframe (grid) may be illustrated at first. By default, if more than nine images are within the display extent of ArcMap, then a wireframe is used. However, when you zoom in closer, the images will appear. To change the default settings for a raster catalog, click the Display tab in the raster catalog Properties window.

Thanks for your great question! Keep them coming!

More Dear GUS questions can be found on page five!

If you would like to submit a question to GUS, simply direct your e-mail to deargus@salisburync.gov. Or visit the Dear GUS webpage at http://gis.salisburync.gov/dear_gus.asp ♦

USER INSIGHT

GIS Strategic Plan

You might be wondering...just what is a "strategic" plan? Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare to provide input for the GIS Strategic Plan.

Strategic Plan:

A plan of action toward achieving the *consensus* goals of an organization.

Why Strategic Plan?

- Maintain commitment to commonly held goals
- Prioritize core data products
- Maximize benefits for largest number of stakeholders
- Encourage commitment to standards
- GIS strategic planning integrates the efforts of people from different functional areas toward common organizational goals

Successful Strategic Planning

- Leads to action
- Establishes a shared vision
- Is inclusive

Source: GIS Strategic Planning NC GIS Conference Workshop presented February 19, 2003 by Lynda Wayne of GeoMaxim.

Your input is a vital part of the GIS strategic planning process. If your department or division already has a plan in place, please share a copy with Kathryn Clifton. And, be sure to attend the GIS Users Group Meeting on April 15th. ♦

... NC OneMap Workshop (from page 1)

Representatives from Alamance County, Cabarrus County, City of Charlotte, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, Mecklenburg County, City of Salisbury, and Wake County were in attendance.

Contact Zsolt Nagy, Geographic Information Coordination Program Manager, for more information about NC OneMap. EMAIL zsolt.nagy@ncmail.net

Contact Julia Harrell, GIS Application Programmer II, regarding technical questions related to NC OneMap. EMAIL julia.harrell@ncmail.net

Visit NC OneMap online at <http://www.nconemap.com> ♦

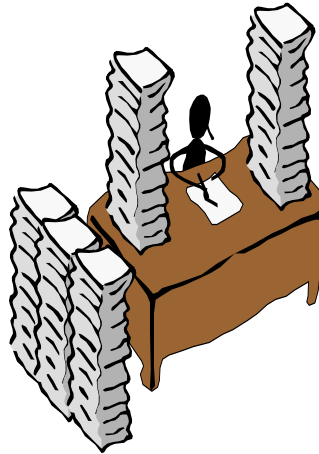


Instructor Julia Harrell explains the fine art of editing AXL files to Cabarrus County GIS Manager Cathy Cole.

USER INSIGHT

Dear GUS,

Dear GUS (GIS User Specialist) is a column that will address common questions that GIS users may encounter.



Dear GUS,

I have a map that contains lots of aerial photos. When I try to print it, the printer usually runs out of memory.

Any ideas?

Signed, Pooped Printer

Dear Pooped Printer,

ArcPress is an extension to ArcGIS. It is a PostScript-based Raster Image Processor (RIP) that converts complex raster and vector maps to bitmap images at a specific resolution. This bitmap is then sent to the printer. Because the bitmap is a pure raster image, the printer does not need to process it and should begin to print immediately.

To use ArcPress, choose Tools > Extensions from your ArcMap menu. Then, check the box next to ArcPress to make it available. Later, when you choose to print a map layout, click the Setup button next to the printer name in the Print Dialog box and choose ArcPress Printer as your printer engine.

Happy printing! I'll have more useful tips on ArcPress in the next issue.

Dear GUS,

I have been working on a data layer that contains some "doughnut" polygons. In other words, I have an area in the middle of the polygon that I want to exclude. Can you give me some pointers on creating them?

Signed, Krispy Kreme Lover

Dear Krispy Kreme Lover,

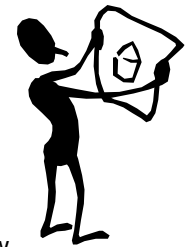
As with nearly any GIS task, there is more than one way to accomplish this. If you are creating new polygons, the easiest way to is create the polygon as a multi-part feature. Simply create a new polygon, right-click and choose Finish Part. Then, digitize the inner polygon, right-click and choose Finish Sketch. Voila!

Another way to accomplish the same thing would be to create a new polygon, right-click and choose Finish Sketch. Then, digitize the inner polygon (on top of the existing one), right-click and choose Finish Sketch. With the inner polygon selected, choose Editor > Clip. Indicate a buffer distance of zero, and choose to discard the area that intersects. Select the inner polygon again, and delete it. Your doughnut hole has been created. I enjoyed your question, but next time send a doughnut too.

If you would like to submit a question to GUS, simply direct your e-mail to deargus@salisburync.gov. Or visit the Dear GUS webpage at http://gis.salisburync.gov/dear_gus.asp ♦

COUNTY CORNER

Rowan County
Hires GIS
Technician



A friendly new face will greet you if you happen to be at the Rowan County GIS Division. His name is Columbus Hawks.

Columbus began working for the GIS Division in January 2004. Previously, he worked for Surry County as a GIS Technician. His primary responsibilities will entail the coordination of GIS addressing with E-911 and updating address files as new subdivisions and streets are added, or changes are made to existing addresses. ♦

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Parcel Data Workshop
Information Available

Parcel data workshops were held on February 27 and March 12, 2004 on the use of Rowan County parcel data to prepare mailing lists for notification of property owners for such things as rezoning requests, historic district grant opportunities, nuisance ordinance violation notifications, etc.

Attendees were provided materials developed by Kathryn Clifton that provided step-by-step instructions for selecting parcel information within ArcMap, exporting this selection to an external file, and using this external file to generate mailing labels from within Microsoft Word. A flow-chart detailing the process will soon be added as well.

This information is available for download from the GIS Division website—select Past Events from the drop-down menu under GIS Calendar. ♦

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

ArcGIS 8.3

Training is available for the desktop application ArcView/ ArcEditor/ArcInfo 8.3.

This two-day class is intended to introduce individuals to ArcGIS and provide the foundation for using ArcGIS. Individuals learn how to use ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and ArcToolbox. The class covers basic GIS concepts, as well as how to create, edit, and maintain spatial data.

This course is intended for those who are new to ArcGIS or to geographic information systems in general.

Class size is limited to twelve students. The instructor must have at least two weeks' notice prior to the date you would like to receive training so that adequate manuals, etc. can be ordered.

Class dates:

March 31-April 1, 2004 (FULL)

May 19-20, 2004

Contact Kathryn Clifton if you are interested in ArcGIS training. ♦

GIS DIVISION UPDATE

New GIS Website

Unveiled

By Kathryn Clifton
City of Salisbury GIS Coordinator

The GIS Division website now sports a new look — with more emphasis on the GIS Division logo and color scheme, an online calendar of events, and more information for the general public regarding available data.

ArcIMS projects are in the works—particularly a park locator and an historic districts browser. This will enable the City of Salisbury and its departments to better serve its citizens and those interested in Salisbury through readily available access to timely and accurate digital information.

Continued input from the public and from staff are a welcome part of the GIS website redesign process. Simply contact Kathryn Clifton via phone or e-mail — she will be happy to work with you.

Be sure to visit the new website at <http://gis.salisburync.gov!>

If you have suggestions for the website, please contact Kathryn Clifton at 704-638-5246 or via e-mail at katclif@salisburync.gov. ♦



The GIS website now sports a new, crisp look.

GIS MEETING & CONFERENCE CALENDAR

GIS Users Group Meeting

- April 15, 2004 12 NOON
- June 17, 2004 12 NOON

GIS Users Group Meetings are held bi-monthly at the Plaza, 100 East Innes Street, in the second floor conference room.

CADre (<http://www.cadresys.com>)

5701 Westpark Drive Suite 110 Charlotte, NC 28217

- First Look!: AutoCAD 2005
...various locations on the following dates:
March 23 and 24, April 6-8, 13 and 14
Registration is required; the event is free.

ESRI International User Conference (<http://www.esri.com>)

- August 9-13, 2004 San Diego, CA

ESRI Southeastern Regional Users Group SERUG (<http://www.serug.com>)

GIS Day 2004

(see <http://www.gisday.com>)

- November 17, 2004

NC Urban & Regional Information Systems Association (NCURISA) Annual Conference (<http://www.ncurisa.org/>)

- August 18-20, 2004 Asheville, NC

If you know of an upcoming event that may be of interest to other AutoCAD and GIS users, please e-mail Kathryn Clifton with the location, date, and other details. ♦

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